



APRIL 2023

4-H Family News

GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN



WELCOME TO APRIL!

I hope your spring is off to a great start! Gratiot County 4-H had a fantastic month of March. Highlights included members participating in the Skillathon State Championship (p. 4) and a full week of “Alternative Spring Break” activities (photos on p. 5).

Warmer weather will bring many 4-H workshops. Make to sure to check out the upcoming county and state-level opportunities in visual arts (p.2), swine (p. 3), horse (p. 3), beef (p. 9), and dog (p. 11) project areas.

April is also Financial Literacy Month. Check out the contests on page 7 for a chance to win some dough! Moving into May, there are two awesome opportunities to attend baseball games with Michigan 4-H. Grab your discounted tickets now (see p. 8). You’ll also want to begin registering for summer programs – Exploration Days and Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp (details on p. 12) are now open, and spots will fill quickly!

As always, let us know if you have any questions!

All the best,
Stacey Woggon
4-H Program Coordinator

*** NEW SOCIAL MEDIA ***

Due to staff changes and technology access issues, we are starting new social media accounts! Please like, follow, and invite your friends to our new page. Find us on Facebook as “Gratiot County 4-H MSU Extension”. The existing page will be phased out later this month. Thank you for helping to spread the word!



@gratiot4hmsue

CONTACT US

Stacey Woggon
4-H Program Coordinator

Gratiot County MSUE Office
219 N. State Street
Alma, Michigan
48801

PHONE & EMAIL:

989-875-5233

woggonst@msu.edu

WEBSITE:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/gratiot/gratiot_county_4_h/

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COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Council Meeting.....	April 3, 2023 @ 7pm, Extension Office
GCFFY Fair Board Meeting	April 6, 2023 @ 7pm, Fair Office
Horse Developmental Meeting	April 11, 2023 @ 7pm, Fair Office
Creative Arts Sampler.....	April 15, 2023 @ 1pm, Extension Office
GCFFY Dairy Feeder Registration Deadline.....	April 15, 2023
CYI Spring Conference (Stacey Out of Office).....	April 17-20, 2023
Exploration Days Registration Closes.....	April 20, 2023
Horse Developmental Coggins/Vaccine Clinic.....	April 22, 2023
4-H Council Meeting.....	April 24, 2023, Extension Office
Spring Paper Clover Campaign.....	April 26-May 7, TSC Stores
Youth Swine Day.....	April 29, 2023, GCFFY Fairgrounds
GCFFY Fair Board Meeting.....	May 4, 2023 @ 7pm, Fair Office
Horse Developmental Horse Camp/Open Show	May 12-14, Fairgrounds

GCFFY UPDATES

While the GCFFY is not a MSU Extension/4-H sponsored event, this information is of interest to many in our 4-H community.

- Dairy feeder registrations are due April 15th
 - Ear tags are available at both the Fair Office and the MSU Extension Office for \$3 a piece
 - The fair book is now available on the GCFFY website www.gcffy.org
- Please contact the GCFFY directly at info@gcffy.org or 989-466- 5071 for any fair related questions.

CREATIVE ARTS SAMPLER: APRIL 15

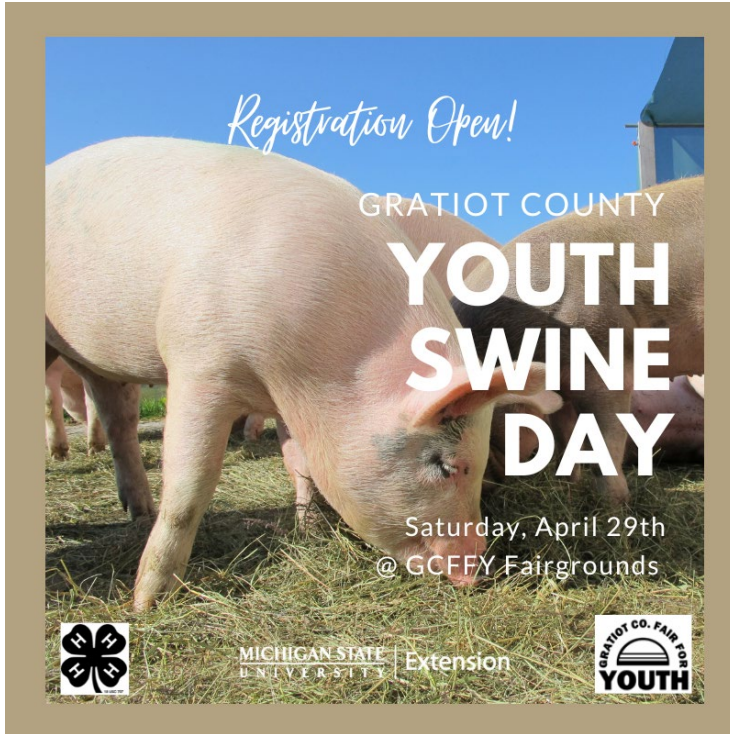


Register for the Gratiot County 4-H Creative Arts Sampler! This half-day workshop is open to Gratiot County 4-H youth ages 8-19 and Gold Volunteers. Instruction will be provided for three projects: glass etching, can embossing, and quilling. Learn more at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/gratiot-county-4-h-creative-arts-sampler>





COUNTY 4-H NEWS



Youth Swine Day: April 29

Attention swine exhibitors!

Have you registered for Gratiot County Youth Swine Day? This all day seminar will be held April 29th at the GCFY Fairgrounds and focus on improving youth's general knowledge of swine. Topics include YQCA class and test, fair preparation, youth panel, and pig selection.

This event is open to all youth ages 5-19. For more information and registration forms, please visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/gratiot-county-youth-swine-day2023>

Horse Camp & Open Shows: May 12-14

Interested in the 4-H Horse & Pony project?

Come horse around with us May 12-14! Horse Developmental will be holding their camp sessions Friday evening and Saturday during the day. An open speed show will take place Saturday evening and an open pleasure show on Sunday. Additional details and showbills can be found on our website:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/gratiot/gratiot_county_4_h/horse-camp-and-open-shows





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Gratiot County 4-H Members Win at Skillathon State Championship!

A huge congratulations to Gratiot County 4-H members Kylee Anderson and Molly Lake! They participated in the Skillathon qualifiers back in March and advanced to the State Championship. At the Championship, Kylee finished Grand Champion in the Novice Division with a record high score of 86%. Molly also competed in the Novice Division and finished 3rd with a score of 70.7%. Full results and the awards video can be viewed at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/otsego/4-h/2023-Skillathon> Great job, Kylee and Molly!!



Club Updates

Our 4-H clubs have been busy! March activities included painting Saint Patrick's Day gnomes, stuffing Easter eggs, learning about fly fishing, practicing to judge swine, and more. Check out some photos below, and don't forget to send your club updates to woggonst@msu.edu to be featured in our newsletter and on social media!





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Alternative Spring Break Updates

Thank you to everyone who joined us for “Alternative Spring Break” activities the week of March 27 – 31. A special shout out to Kim Reisterer for leading our painting class on Tuesday, the Gratiot County Animal Shelter for providing us with a tour on Wednesday, and Patty Macha for leading our flower arranging class on Thursday. Enjoy the photos below!





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Support 4-H with the TSC Paper Clover Campaign!

Tractor Supply Company (TSC) customers across the nation will have the opportunity to support 4-H youth by purchasing a \$1 clover at checkouts when shopping both in stores or online from April 26-May 7. To learn more, visit www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign.

April 1: Month of the Military Child Virtual Challenge

Online

Join Michigan 4-H and military partners as we celebrate April as the Month of the Military Child with an online GooseChase! Open to both military families and civilians.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/month-of-the-military-child-virtual-challenge

April 4: Youth Credit Craze

Online

This webinar will help youth learn the basics of credit, comparing credit and debit, understanding credit scores, knowing the different versions of credit, and tips to managing credit wisely.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/youthcreditcraze>

April 11: Wild Spartans Series - Black River Lake Sturgeon Facility

Online

This month, plunge into our rivers and lakes to take a closer look at the prehistoric fish that inhabit our waters. Meet Doug Larson, research assistant and the Black River Sturgeon Facility. You will learn about his field work, and the education and career path he followed to get there.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-april-2023>

April 12: Adulting 101 - Build and Protect Your Credit

Online

This workshop will address credit myths, explain the importance of credit reports, demystify credit scores and provide strategies to build and protect your credit.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-4-12-23>

April 16: Michigan 4-H/FFA Horse Judging Contest

MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

Participants in competitive horse judging learn how to properly judge horses of various breeds and disciplines. Registration deadline is April 3.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-ffa-horse-judging-contest>

SAVE THE DATE!

May 22-25: Paddlesports Leader Training

YMCA Camp Torenta, Cadillac

Gain confidence offering paddling skills to your youth groups! Six courses offered – select the one that fits your needs! Partial scholarships available for 4-H volunteers. **Registration closes May 5.**

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/paddlesports-leader-training>





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

APRIL IS NATIONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH!

4-H Cash Composition Contest

Essay Submissions Due By April 30, 2023



Michigan Youth
Between the Ages
9-12

Earn \$100 gift card by
Sharing Your Financial
Knowledge

Sponsored by:



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



Win a \$100 gift card in the Cash Composition Contest!

Money, money, money! In honor of Financial Awareness Month held each April, Michigan State University Extension 4-H is coordinating the Cash Composition Contest. Youth residing in Michigan, age 9-12 as of (January 1, 2023) are encouraged to answer this year's contest where they will write a short (300 words or less) essay about needs and wants. The 5 top scoring essays will each win a \$100 gift card thanks to the generous sponsorship by Extra Credit Union. Contest registration and essay submission must be complete by April 30th. For more details go to: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-kids-contest>

Win a \$25 gift card in the Show Your Money Smarts Contest!

Learn how to use credit wisely in this year's fifth annual online contest. Compete with other youth aged 13-19 across the state of Michigan in this 30-question online challenge during the month of April and win prizes. High scoring youth will be entered into a prize drawing to win \$25 gift card. Start developing a good credit score and history at a young age and learn how to make your credit work for you!

To register and for more information go here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/show-your-money-smarts-contest-2023> These prizes are made possible through the generous sponsorship of the Michigan Credit Union Foundation.

SHOW YOUR MONEY SMARTS CONTEST

AGES 13-19

REGISTER BY APRIL 13, 2023 AND COMPLETE BY APRIL 30, 2023



WIN BY TAKING AN ONLINE CHALLENGE QUIZ

SPONSORED BY:

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STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

COME WATCH BASEBALL WITH MICHIGAN 4-H!

4-H Day with the Great Lakes Loons: May 6th

Join Michigan 4-H at the Great Lakes Loons game on May 6th. In addition to the baseball game, there will be STEM activities, a petting zoo, prizes, and more for families to enjoy. Purchase your discounted tickets at https://fevo.me/loons_4h_day



**GROUP
OUTING**



4-H Day With the Great lakes Loons

Saturday, May 6th, 1:05 PM

Come out and support 4-H at the Great Lakes Loons game! We will have games, educational pieces, cuddly animals, STEM activities, prizes, and more!

Tickets can be purchased at the QR code below, or here: https://fevo.me/loons_4h_day

What Else Is Going On?

- STEM Activities
- Games and Prizes
- Friendly Petting Zoo



Loons Contact: Scott Bejcek—989.837.6137 or sbejcek@loons.com

4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers: May 13th

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Seattle Mariners on Saturday May 13! Michigan 4-H youth, volunteers, staff and their families can enjoy a discounted \$18 ticket to the game and a portion of every ticket sold in the 4-H block will be donated back to Michigan 4-H. To order your tickets, visit <https://fevo.me/mi4h2023>.

DETROIT TIGERS
MICHIGAN 4-H DAY

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

TIGERS vs. MARINERS

Saturday, May 13th • 1:10 PM

ABOUT

Join Michigan 4-H and Michigan State University Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Seattle Mariners on Saturday May 13!

Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game. To celebrate, 4-H youth, volunteers, staff and their families will enjoy a discounted ticket to the game. A portion of every ticket sold on this link will be donated back to Michigan 4-H. Make sure to wear your favorite 4-H gear and support 4-H while enjoying a fun day with the 4-H community.



Tickets can be ordered at <https://fevo.me/mi4h2023>

PACKAGES

4-H Ticket - \$18

Call Walker Cooper at 313.471.7337 or email Walker.Cooper@Tigers.com
To reserve your spot today!



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Check out the Beef Series Part 2!

Attention beef and dairy beef exhibitors!

Registration for the second part of the Beef Series is now open! This is an in-person only demonstration type of clinic open to any youth currently enrolled in 4-H. The sessions will feature information, but not limited to, enhancing showmanship skills, seeing a show from a judge's perspective, clipping & fitting, how to be successful at shows, and how to have a successful fair week. This is a free educational experience that will feature industry professionals where youth will be able to see how and why things are done in the beef show industry. Participants will be able to ask questions and will be eligible for door prize giveaways. Participants will not bring their own animals. Participants may choose to attend whichever sessions they prefer. The series will be held at the Kent County Fairgrounds on April 16th, May 14th, June 11th, and July 23rd.

Registration Link:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/beefseriesphase2/>

Beef Series Part 2!

Sessions are open to any Michigan youth enrolled in 4-H!
*Youth Must Be Enrolled in 4-H to Attend!

Schedule & Topics:
April 16th: Showmanship & Judge's Perspective
May 14th: Fitting & Clipping
June 11th: Hair & Skin Care
July 23rd: Fair Prep & Show Success

SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN-PERSON ONLY!
 TIME: 2:00 P.M.
 LOCATION: KENT COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
 COST: FREE
 *YOUTH WILL NOT BRING THEIR ANIMALS
 YOUTH MAY CHOOSE TO ATTEND ANY OR ALL OF THE SESSIONS!
 YOUTH WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS THROUGH A DEMONSTRATION & CLINIC SETTING!

MICHIGAN 4-H / FFA MEATS JUDGING CONTEST

MAY 10, 2023

MSU MEAT LAB, EAST LANSING

Registration and payment due May 1st



State Meats Judging Contest: May 10

Registration is now open for the 2023 Michigan 4-H/FFA State Meats Judging Contest! This fun contest gives youth an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to evaluate carcasses and identify meats. The contest will take place at the MSU Meat Lab on May 10th. Contestants can participate as an individual or as part of a team; check with your local MSU Extension Office to see if your county is sending a team. Registration information and contest rules can be found at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2023-michigan-4-h-ffa-state-meats-judging-contest>.



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Discover Animal Health Through Poultry Science!

Want to learn more about animal health and poultry science? Sign-up for this FREE one day workshop June 15, 2023 at the MSU Pavilion in East Lansing! You'll build knowledge about animal health, biosecurity practices to keep you and your animal safe, explore how our immune systems work, and learn about poultry science. A t-shirt, program book, and lunch are included, as well as visiting a poultry facility (transportation provided). Space is limited to the first 25 high school students who register! Scan the QR code for full program details.

REGISTER FOR DISCOVERING ANIMAL HEALTH THROUGH POULTRY SCIENCE

Who: Youth 9 - 12 grades
What: One day workshop
When: June 2023
Cost: Free
 Scan QR Code for more information

NOW OPEN

Logos: USDA (United States Department of Agriculture), National Institute of Food and Agriculture, PAJF PROGRAM (Poultry and Animal Jobs for Education), PURDUE UNIVERSITY (Animal Sciences COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE)

2023 HESSE-EARL YOUTH FISHING PROGRAM

- May 6th, 2023 at Lake Lansing in Lansing
- May 13th, 2023 at Hawk Island in Haslett
- May 20th, 2023 at Motz Park in St. Johns
- Check in is at 8:30 am, program runs 9am to Noon
- A responsible adult must remain on-site with each youth
- For more information contact Rachel Sheff at ochyslki@msu.edu or 517-676-7300

Follow this link or use the QR code for more information:
https://events.anr.msu.edu/Hesse_Earl_Fishing_Program_2023/



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Learn to fish with the Hesse-Earl Youth Fishing Program!

The Hesse-Earl Youth Fishing Program is a free program for youth, ages 5-16, where they can learn basic fishing skills such as casting, knot tying, rigging for different types of fishing, regulations, and fishing ethics. Then the kids get to apply those skills and knowledge at a local fishing site with the assistance of trained volunteers. There are three sessions throughout the month of May 2023: May 6 at Lake Lansing, Haslett; May 13 at Hawk Island, Lansing; and May 20 at Motz Park, St. Johns.

Registration and more info: bit.ly/Hesse-Earl



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Updates from the Michigan 4-H Dog Program!

If you could not attend the 4-H Leader Dog Partnership event, check out the link below for the recording.

It is not too late to apply to be a puppy raiser!

https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/t/1_ipjl05fq

Save the date for overnight “Canine Camp” to be held June 2-4, 2023 at Coldwater Lake. Registration will be opening soon!

The State 4-H Dog Show will be held August 12, 2023 at the MSU Pavilion. Vendor contracts are available – please email Kristi at schri61@msu.edu. We are also looking for t-shirt designs for the state show. Send your design to Kristi by July 1st.

For the latest updates from the Michigan 4-H Dog Program, follow their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/michigan4hdogs>

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

T-shirt Contest

Seeking Creative Youth

We are looking for a fabulous design for our 4-H State Dog show t-shirts.

Send your design to Kristi at schrei61@msu.edu by July 1!

MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.
Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the MSU Extension office at (989) 317-4079 at least 5 days prior to the scheduled event to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests received after this time will be met when possible.

Save the Date!

**MICHIGAN
4-H
STATE
DOG SHOW**

AUGUST 12, 2023

**MSU PAVILION
EAST LANSING, MI**

Photo by Lucia Macedo on Unsplash

4-H GROWS HERE

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Registration is open for 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resource Camp!

4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp is an annual three-time national award-winning camp that mixes summer fun and hands-on science education. The camp will be held July 23-29 on the shores of Lake Esau at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle. This pre-college program is for teens who will be age 13 to 15 during camp.

During this enriching MSU Extension educational program, campers will increase their science literacy and stewardship as they learn from natural resource experts in fields such as Great Lakes coastal and fisheries management, limnology, wildlife, forestry, geography, geology and environmental education. In addition to hands-on learning, attendees will also enjoy exciting natural resources recreation activities such as kayaking, snorkeling, sailing, fossil hunting, archery, photography, and evenings around a campfire. First-time campers also go charter fishing and learn and learn to fillet their catch while all campers have fun and make new friends with people from difference backgrounds and areas.

Registration is now open! The registration fee is \$500 and includes six nights of lodging, all meals and snacks, a t-shirt and program and activity costs. Space is limited to 70 campers so register today. For more information and to register, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/.



4-H GREAT LAKES AND NATURAL RESOURCES CAMP

July 23-29, 2023
Camp Chickagami, Presque Isle
Registration Now Open!



Register for 4-H Exploration Days!

Join 1,000 youth from across Michigan on MSU's campus to explore YOUR future! Live in the dorms and learn about future careers at 4-H Exploration Days. This three-day pre-college program is designed to help you explore careers, build skills and envision your future. Choose from more than 100 fun learning sessions on a variety of topics that are led by MSU faculty, 4-H staff and volunteers, and other experts! You'll stay in and eat at MSU residence halls, attend sessions in buildings throughout campus, and of course have fun at free-time activities across the university!

4-H Exploration days will be held June 21 to 23 at MSU in East Lansing. All Young people ages 12 to 19 are invited to join the fun! You don't need to be a 4-H member to attend. Adults who would like to serve as event chaperones should contact their county 4-H program coordinator.

The cost for the 2023 event is \$220, which includes two nights' lodging in a residence hall, meals, learning sessions, an event t-shirt and free-time activities. Gratiot County 4-H Council is providing 50% scholarships for active Gratiot County 4-H members. The scholarship form must be submitted by April 24th.

Participants who will enter eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh grades after attending 4-H Exploration Days are eligible for nomination to apply for a \$2,000 MSU Pre-College Scholarship. 4-H Exploration Days participants will be invited to apply for nomination by writing an essay.

Registration opened March 21 and closes April 20. You'll want to register soon – sessions fill up fast and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis! For registration links or more information, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/.



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Don't miss "Conservation Conversations"

Don't miss the next "Conservation Conversations" event on April 18th, sponsored by the Michigan Conservation Stewards Program. Gather with scientists, environmental stewards and the local conservation community for an evening of learning and conversation. Our featured speaker is Dr. Barb Avers a Waterfowl and Wetlands Specialist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The event will take place at the Michigan Nature Association in Okemos, Michigan from 6:00-8:00 PM. It will begin with the presentation followed by a question-and-answer session. This event is open to all; however, topics and discussion will be geared toward a 13+ crowd. Registration is \$10/per person and includes light refreshments. Pre-registration is required. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/24typvnx> for complete details about this event (and to register).

The Michigan Conservation Stewards Program presents

Conservation Conversations



WETLAND CONSERVATION IN MICHIGAN

Featuring Dr. Barb Avers
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

APRIL 18 | 6PM | MICHIGAN NATURE ASSOCIATION
OKEMOS, MI

canr.msu.edu/csp

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Host a Japanese youth this summer!

It is time to "Spring" into action and consider hosting a Japanese youth this summer! Michigan 4-H will be having 12 Japanese youth and one Chaperone available in 2023 for interested families opening their home and hearts by hosting! They tentatively are scheduled to arrive July 22nd and depart August 17th. A host family needs to complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application, have a youth to match as a host brother/sister (be within 3 years of age), adults be Michigan 4-H adult Gold Volunteers, participate in an interview and home visit process. Applications to host can be found at www.states4hexchange.org

Check out the Michigan 4-H International Exchange Programs Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Michigan-4-H-International-Exchange-Programs-164923776970132> and the States 4-H International Exchange Programs Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/states4hexchange> to keep up to date on all the wonderful opportunities available. Please feel free to contact Michigan 4-H International Exchange Programs Coordinator Jan Brinn brinn@msu.edu or Co-Coordinator John Wurm wurmj@msu.edu. This program is supported by the MSU Extension Children & Youth Institute Leadership, Civic and Cultural Engagement (LCCE) Team.

Mailing Panel

County Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

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4-H Family News

GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN



4-H 
GROWS HERE